

Serial No. 10/791  
Amendment dated November 8, 2006  
In Reply of Office Action dated September 22, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide for positioning extraglottic (EAD) and subglottic (SAD) airway devices insertable in a patient's trachea with minimum throat, esophageal or tracheal injury comprising:

- a) a slender dual function invertable insert having a length from about 30 cm to about 90 cm and a diameter from about 2 mm to about 5 mm depending on the patient's size;
- b) said dual function invertable insert having proximal, intermediate and distal sections integrally connected;
- c) said proximal and distal sections having front and rear portions;

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d) said proximal section's front portion extending  
from about 0.5% to about 20% of the total length of said slender  
insert and said distal sections' front portion extending from  
about 0.5% to about 50% of the total length of said slender  
insert;

e) said proximal and distal sections' front portion  
having an end tip;

f) said proximal and distal sections comprising a  
soft, malleable and ductile material extending from said  
proximal and distal sections' front portion end tip through said  
proximal and distal sections' rear portion;

g) said intermediate section positionable in said  
Patient's throat comprising a stiff, malleable and ductile  
material stiffer than said soft malleable and ductile proximal  
and distal sections and having a selected hardness of between  
about 50 SHORE A to about 90 SHORE D;

h) said proximal and distal sections having a SHORE  
hardness approximately 20% to approximately 30% less than said  
selected hardness of said intermediate section.

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2 (currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

- a) said slender insert is in a tube.

3 (original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

- a) said slender insert is solid.

4 (currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

- a) said proximal and distal sections' SHORE hardness is constant from said proximal and distal sections' front portion end tip through said proximal and distal sections' rear portion.

5 (currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

- a) said proximal and distal sections' SHORE hardness increases continuously from said proximal and distal sections' front

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portion end tip through said proximal and distal sections' rear portion.

6 (currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said proximal and distal sections' SHORE hardness increases in a series of steps from said proximal and distal sections' front portion end tip through said proximal and distal sections' rear portion.

7 (original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is opaque.

8 (currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert includes an embedded fiber optic means.

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9(original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is made of plastic.

10(currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said plastic is from the group consisting of a medical grade polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a medical grade silicone plastic, and a medical grade polyethylene.

11(original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert includes insertion depth indicating means.

12(original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 11, and wherein:

a) said insertion depth indicating means includes measuring indicia.

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13(original). An esophageal airway management device guide  
as in claim 11, and wherein:

a) said insertion depth indicating means is color  
coding.

14(cancel).

15(cancel).

16(cancel).

17(cancel)

18(cancel).

19(cancel).

20(cancel).

21(cancel).

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22 (currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1 ~~16~~, and wherein:

a) said proximal section is bent at an angle of about from 25° to about 45° with respect to said intermediate section and upon withdrawal is reshaped.

23 (currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1 ~~16~~, and wherein:

a) said proximal section is bent at an angle of about 35° with respect to said intermediate section.

24 (new). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 22, and wherein:

a) said bent proximal section conforms to said esophageal management device during insertion and withdrawal.